

# The Commoner.

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## A PARALLEL

(St. Louis Post-Dispatch.)

Washington D. C., January 3.—Six railroad presidents called at the White House today to protest against further railroad legislation. They were received with respect, and after a two hour conference with the president it was announced that the president would make some alterations in his message. The visitors were President Mellen of the New York, New Haven & Hartford; President McCrea of the Pennsylvania; President Lovett of the Union Pacific and allied Harri-man lines; President Baer of the Philadelphia & Reading; President Filley of the Southern and President Brown of the New York Central.

It is understood they sought to convince the president that further legislation at this time would upset conditions in the railway and industrial world which generally have been righting themselves in the past two years. They were preceded by Mr. J. P. Morgan, who called at the White House earlier in the day and paved the way for their reception.

## OF COURSE

A Washington dispatch says: "Many senators and representatives declare that the administration's federal incorporation bill if passed as now tentatively drawn will afford a shelter for every criminal combination in the United States."

That is just what it was intended to do, and this important fact can not be too often emphasized.

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## Appreciate The Commoner

Henry C. Shurts, South Lebanon, O.—As a lifetime republican I certainly and most emphatically endorse the humane and progressive national policies advocated by Mr. Bryan against the rank, unbusiness-like methods of the horde of republican grafters and incompetents in charge of national and state affairs. Wastefulness, gross extravagance, high taxes, unnecessary bond issues and the carrying out of every fool idea for the sake of increasing the great army of officeholders, should cease or be curtailed within the limits of our revenue. Will try and get you five additional subscribers soon.

J. W. Walker, Atchison, Kan.—Enclosed find my check for \$3 for five subscriptions to your valuable paper to be sent to the following parties for the year 1910. It has been my custom to subscribe for five copies every January 1 for a number of years, four to my friends and one number to myself. Every democrat and every republican ought to read your valuable paper. Reading it from week to week makes you a better American citizen if one is inclined to look for knowledge in the political and home life of our nation. Had its editor not been honest, truthful and fighting for a righteous cause his influence and work ere this time would have come to an end. His life's work will live and posterity will embrace it years after he is dead and gone. He is more potent for good, though defeated for office, than those who enjoy the emoluments of office and victory. I have read the many opinions of many letters that have been written to your paper and published in same from time to time, trying to explain the cause of the democratic party's many defeats especially when Mr. Bryan was our candidate. It can all be summed up in a few words. Money, and when you contemplate that our government employs almost 400,000 people in their service who all more or less take an active part in our elections, have the means with which elections are won, it does not require much thought how it all comes about. Recent developments in various corporations and government departments attest to this statement. What an opportunity for President Taft to enshrine himself into the hearts of a great majority of the American people. Will he do it? Not from the tone of his first message to congress, where, for instance, he regrets the sugar trust's employes and clerks' great frauds and would try and make the people believe that the heads of this great trust, who seem to be mightier and more powerful than our government itself, were ignorant of what was going on in their business. While European nations today are working and drifting more and more towards a democratic form of government it seems that we as a nation are embracing more and more the ideas and formalities of monarchies. It has come to pass that courts and commissions appointed by those in authority decide what laws passed by our legislative bodies elected for that purpose by the people what is constitutional and unconstitutional law. This is true in both nation and state and is taking away the prerogative of a democratic form of government from the representatives in our legislative bodies who the people elect to make laws for them. This will not continue as I have faith yet in the judgment and patriotism of the American people. It is darkest always just before the dawn.

R. H. Brown, Crowther, Texas—It is needless to state that I am thoroughly in accord with Mr. Bryan's Dallas speech, also his El Paso interview on the Bailey Dallas speech. I reside on a ranch three miles to nearest neighbor, a very sparsely settled country, less than 1,100 population in our county of 1,200 square miles, I see but few people only when business requires. Nine in ten of the democrats in our county are with Mr. Bryan and against Mr. Bailey, who is more republican than democratic in principles. This tariff for revenue with incidental protection is a subterfuge, a shield behind which protectionist democrats hide. Protectionists appeal to the selfish side of man, be it right or wrong, but Mr. Bailey goes further than that; he advocates retaliation, discarding all questions of justice and right. He justifies committing a wrong act because some one else has committed a wrong act. How any honest and intelligent man, who desires the common good, can at the same time be a protectionist is a problem that can not be solved. No honest man of intelligence will attempt to prove nor can he prove that protection in any phase is for the common good unless he first proves that our federal system of taxation is the best for the mass of the people, for the poor as well as the rich, and that is

an impossibility. That many honest men are protectionists is true but they are so and only so by reason of education, never having themselves studied the question deeply. If all the democrats in the recent session of congress had remained steadfast to democratic principles and had voted democratic on the tariff, there is no question but what the next house would have been overwhelmingly democratic and in all probability the senate too would have become so as the terms of twenty-four republican senators expire March, 1911. The battle has been fought and lost and that because of treachery in the democratic senators and congressmen whom the people trusted to carry on their demands. There is now no hope to regain the opportunity the democrats had on the tariff vote for the democratic party to get once more in control of the government. It is in the minds of many democrats as well as republicans nothing is to be gained by a change when in time of need democrats vote with standpatters. Where is the difference between a democratic protectionist and a republican protectionist? These are questions democrats are asking. The tariff being a hidden tax hence difficult for the mass of the people with limited opportunities to understand. If a law was enacted requiring the amount of the tariff tax to be shown separate from the price of all imported goods in actual figures on every article imported when sold to the consumer, would convince more people and more people would understand by this practical demonstration than all the arguments possible to produce. I enclose check for \$1.50. Please extend my subscription to The Commoner one year and send me one copy Commoner Condensed, volume seven.

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